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*Grade 9*  
*Achievement Test*

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*English Language Arts*  
*Part B: Reading*

*June 1996*

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**Grade 9 Achievement Test**  
**English Language Arts**

**Part B: Reading**

***Questions Booklet***

***Description***

**Part B: Reading** of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 2 booklets:

- the Readings Booklet contains 8 reading selections and 1 visual
- the Questions Booklet contains 55 questions

**You have 75 minutes to complete this test. You may take up to an additional 30 minutes to complete the test, if you need it.**

***Instructions***

- Be sure that you have a **Readings Booklet**, a **Questions Booklet**, and an **Answer Sheet**.
- You may **not** use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.
- Read each question carefully, and choose the **correct** or **best** answer.
- Make sure that the number of the question on your answer sheet matches the number of the question you are answering.

***Example***


A rose is

- A. a fruit
- B. a flower
- C. an animal
- D. an automobile

***Answer Sheet***

(A) ● (C) (D)

- Use **only** an **HB** pencil to mark your answer.
- If you change an answer, **erase** your first mark **completely**.
- Try to answer every question.



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- I. Read "The Phone Call" on pages 1 and 2 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 8.
1. To "wing it" (line 60) means to act
    - A. decisively
    - B. spontaneously
    - C. immediately
    - D. intelligently
  2. The mood of the narrator before placing the phone call is one of
    - A. nervousness
    - B. confidence
    - C. frustration
    - D. satisfaction
  3. The narrator's **internal** conflict is shown through his
    - A. actual words
    - B. body language
    - C. thought processes
    - D. nervous actions
  4. Which question seems artificial for this narrator?
    - A. "Noreen, do you know what the homework is for biology tomorrow?"
    - B. "Noreen, how would you like to share an evening in paradise with me?"
    - C. "Noreen, what are you doing Friday night?"
    - D. "Noreen, would you like to go to the Graduation Dance with me?"
  5. The irony in this story comes from the author's use of
    - A. foreshadowing
    - B. a sarcastic tone
    - C. flashback
    - D. a surprise ending
- Continued*

6. Throughout most of the story, the narrator is

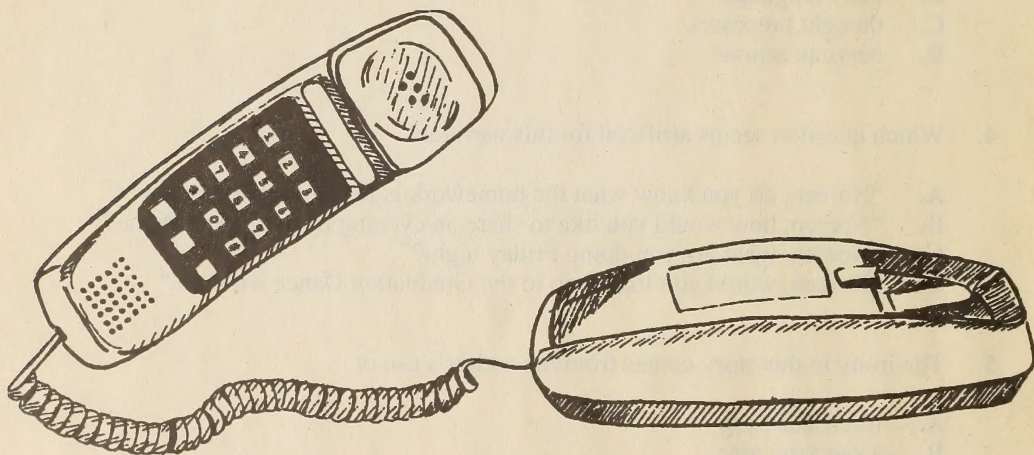
- A. confident
- B. indecisive
- C. relaxed
- D. forceful

7. The author's style is shown through

- A. character description
- B. colourful vocabulary
- C. imaginary dialogue
- D. setting details

8. The author's purpose is to

- A. entertain
- B. inform
- C. persuade
- D. instruct





**II. Read “The Clippers” on page 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 9 to 13.**

9. The **main** purpose of the first paragraph is to
- A. argue the strengths of the clipper
  - B. contrast clippers and steamships
  - C. introduce the clipper
  - D. list the kinds of clippers
10. The **main** idea in the second paragraph is **best** summed up by
- A. “A major event that spurred clipper development”
  - B. “the Far East was fountainhead to a bustling tea trade”
  - C. “Everything conspired to make the dashing clipper the ideal vessel for the times”
  - D. “The mood of the competitors was at times closer to hysteria than commercial enthusiasm”
11. The author believes that if cargo space had not been sacrificed for speed, the
- A. clipper might still be in use today
  - B. clipper’s life span would have been no different
  - C. clipper’s decline would have been more rapid
  - D. clipper might have lasted longer
12. At the height of clipper popularity, the **most** important factor about a clipper was its
- A. passenger capacity
  - B. speed
  - C. cargo capacity
  - D. reliability
13. The word “demise” as used in line 26 means
- A. unpopularity
  - B. beginning
  - C. end
  - D. popularity



III. Read the excerpt from “The Inspector General” on pages 4 and 5 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 14 to 21.

14. In this play, the “SCENE”
- A. outlines what will happen
  - B. introduces the characters
  - C. tells where the action takes place
  - D. tells what will happen first
15. In lines 19 to 21, the dramatist **most likely** wishes to draw the reader’s attention to Khlestakov’s
- A. arrogance
  - B. humbleness
  - C. state of hunger
  - D. willingness to pay
16. The word **closest** in meaning to “preposterous” (line 21) is
- A. absurd
  - B. foolish
  - C. fantastic
  - D. inappropriate
17. In lines 23 to 34, Khlestakov is ridiculing the
- A. rural nobles
  - B. footman
  - C. urban merchants
  - D. servant
18. In lines 60 to 77, the dramatist is poking fun at Khlestakov’s image of himself as
- A. a critic of employees
  - B. an expert on etiquette
  - C. a witty conversationalist
  - D. an authority of fine food

*Continued*



19. The statement that **most clearly** reveals Khlestakov's avoidance of the reality of his situation is
- A. "I've got to eat or I shall starve" (lines 13–14)
  - B. "Those country dunces" (line 30)
  - C. "Who cares about the manager?" (line 40)
  - D. "It's terrible the way they always take advantage of travelers" (lines 79–80)
20. The last sentence of the passage **best** illustrates Khlestakov's
- A. self-deception
  - B. indifference
  - C. frustration
  - D. bitterness
21. In this passage, Khlestakov can be described as
- A. snobbish and judgemental
  - B. sensitive but aggressive
  - C. outspoken and flattering
  - D. unreasonable but responsible



IV. Read the poem “River Skater” on page 6 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 22 to 26.

22. The phrases “hard blades,” “brutal rhythm,” and “savage sound”
- A. describe the aggressive style of the skater
  - B. portray a chilly winter scene
  - C. build an atmosphere of suspense
  - D. generate a feeling of speed
23. The word “twine” as used in line 6 means
- A. double
  - B. string
  - C. glisten
  - D. mark
24. The phrase “his figure slanted like a pen” (line 11) is an example of
- A. personification
  - B. metaphor
  - C. simile
  - D. alliteration
25. Which of the following lines **best** shows a contrast of ideas?
- A. “Ring out a brutal rhythm from black ice” (line 2)
  - B. “A gawky skater with a godlike heel” (line 3)
  - C. “He springs into a faster pace, and then” (line 9)
  - D. “Far down the pastures, paper-white and pure” (line 10)
26. This poem appeals **mainly** to the senses of
- A. hearing and taste
  - B. touch and smell
  - C. touch and taste
  - D. hearing and sight



**V. Read the information about Kootenai Brown on pages 7 and 8 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 27 to 34.**

27. Before first coming to Canada, Kootenai Brown was
- A. a fur trader
  - B. a buffalo hunter
  - C. an express rider carrying United States mail
  - D. an officer in the Imperial Army
28. “Legend attached itself to Kootenai like barnacles to a boat” (line 8) suggests that Kootenai Brown was
- A. the focus of several nature stories
  - B. constantly involved in controversy
  - C. the subject of many extraordinary tales
  - D. inclined to exaggerate his own experiences
29. Kootenai Brown was a native of
- A. Ireland
  - B. England
  - C. Montana
  - D. Canada
30. The word “sentry” (line 23) means
- A. senior officer
  - B. guide
  - C. guard
  - D. express rider
31. The word **closest** in meaning to “reminiscences” (line 56) is
- A. letters
  - B. diaries
  - C. anecdotes
  - D. memoirs

*Continued*

32. Waterton National Park was named for
- A. an English naturalist
  - B. an oblate missionary
  - C. an Edmonton trader
  - D. a well-born Irishman
33. Because of his legacy to Canadians, Kootenai Brown should **best** be remembered as
- A. an adventurer
  - B. a conservationist
  - C. an entrepreneur
  - D. a frontiersman
34. Kootenai Brown's final resting place is in
- A. his native land
  - B. Montana Sioux country
  - C. Waterton National Park
  - D. an isolated grave site



**VI. Read “Legacy Defaulted” on page 9 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 35 to 39.**

- 35.** In the story “Legacy Defaulted,” the narrator **most likely** feels
- A. manipulated
  - B. forgotten
  - C. disappointed
  - D. neglected
- 36.** The narrator has
- A. inherited this house from his father
  - B. sold his grandparents’ house
  - C. purchased the house from his grandparents
  - D. visited the house when he was a child
- 37.** The word “meticulous” (line 20) means
- A. creative and original
  - B. carefree and nonchalant
  - C. relaxed and unconcerned about details
  - D. precise in attending to details
- 38.** The narrator is hoping that visiting the house will help him to
- A. discover information about himself
  - B. remember his childhood
  - C. understand his grandparents’ lives
  - D. learn more about his father
- 39.** The phrase “the key left with the boy” (lines 32–33) **best** suggests that the
- A. narrator had to have a new key made for this house
  - B. door to his father’s memories remains locked
  - C. father lost the key when he was a child
  - D. narrator is likely to learn more about his past

**VII. Read the consumer information pamphlet “Look Who’s Stealing Your Electricity” on page 10 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 40 and 41.**

- 40.** A two-dollar bill is suggested for the test because
- A.** it associates energy saving with money saving
  - B.** the one-dollar coin is too thick
  - C.** this is approximately the amount one can save in a month
  - D.** it blows out easily if air is escaping
- 41.** This consumer information pamphlet was **most likely** published to
- A.** teach us how to test our appliances
  - B.** encourage us to use less energy
  - C.** force us to think about how we use appliances
  - D.** aid us in prolonging the life of our appliances

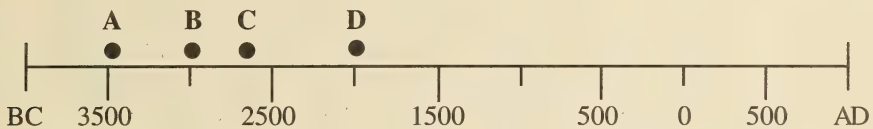


**VIII. Read the article “The Pyramids” on page 11 of your Readings Booklet, and then answer questions 42 to 47.**

**42.** The meaning of “etymology” (line 1) is the

- A. definition of a word
- B. history of a word
- C. pronunciation of a word
- D. root of a word

**43.** Which letter on the time-line indicates approximately when the Great Pyramid at Giza was built?



**44.** The meaning of the phrase “enormous feat” (line 10) is

- A. huge failure
- B. great achievement
- C. large adventure
- D. big expenditure

**45.** The pyramids were **most likely**

- A. homes for kings
- B. temples to many gods
- C. tombs for rulers
- D. monuments to queens

46. "Our theories are rife with doubt" (line 36) suggests that
- A. no one believes the explanation
  - B. scientists believe their hypotheses are incorrect
  - C. mathematicians question the answers
  - D. no definitive conclusions have been made
47. Several references were made to "Giza" in this article. "Giza" is an Egyptian
- A. city
  - B. pharaoh
  - C. pyramidologist
  - D. measure



**IX. Read the excerpt from *The Guardian of Isis* on page 12 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 48 to 55.**

- 48.** The word “plaits” (line 2) means
- A. folds
  - B. waves
  - C. curves
  - D. braids
- 49.** The sentence “Her blatant admiration warmed him inside” (line 3) suggests that Jody felt
- A. embarrassed
  - B. nervous
  - C. pleased
  - D. important
- 50.** From this excerpt, it can be inferred that during the winter
- A. it was very cold
  - B. food was scarce
  - C. people did not socialize
  - D. their skin stretched and hurt
- 51.** The “poor weak dot of light” (line 25) refers to
- A. Ra
  - B. a star
  - C. their home
  - D. Earth
- 52.** Jody had a difficult time believing that
- A. his ancestors were from Earth
  - B. Earth was small and reddish-gold
  - C. the Councillors told legends
  - D. he had been born on Isis

*Continued*

53. According to the details in this excerpt, Isis was
- A. a star
  - B. inhabited by settlers from Earth
  - C. close to Earth
  - D. overseen by a Guardian
54. This excerpt is an example of
- A. science fiction
  - B. mystery
  - C. historical fiction
  - D. mythology
55. The inhabitants of Isis were **probably** celebrating
- A. the arrival of another group of inhabitants
  - B. some of the councillors and elders arriving from Home
  - C. Earth's appearance signaling the end of a long harsh winter
  - D. Ra's disappearance





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